



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Western District of Tennessee*

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TO: Law Enforcement and School Officials

FROM: Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney

DATE: December 16, 2002

RE: Threat Assessment in Schools Seminar

Littleton, Colorado; Springfield, Oregon; West Paducah, Kentucky; Jonesboro, Arkansas, these communities have become familiar to many of us as among the cities where school shootings have occurred in recent years. In the aftermath of these tragic events, educators and law enforcement officials have pressed for answers to two questions: "Could we have known that these attacks were being planned?" and if so "What could we have done to prevent these attacks?" Because of the need to answer these questions, the United States Department of Education and the United States Secret Service partnered to research these and other incidents like these. Out of their research has come "The Final Report and Findings of the Safe School Initiative: Implications for The Prevention of School Attacks in the United States." This study and the suggestions for policy change were released in May 2002. The goal of this study was to gather and analyze accurate and useful information about the behavior and thinking of students who commit acts of targeted violence in our nation's schools.

The U.S. Secret Service and the Department of Education would like to share the results of our study with school and law enforcement professionals responsible for the prevention of targeted school violence. We believe that the release of the Guide and Final Report may aid our nation's school and law enforcement communities to work together in a systematic way and prevent further acts of targeted violence in schools.

Many of you attended a three-hour preview of this program in October of this year. Through the efforts of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee and the United States Secret Service Memphis Field Office, we have been able to arrange for representatives of the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center in Washington, DC to come to Memphis and Jackson, Tennessee and make a formal expanded presentation of their school findings.

You, your designee, and any employees with an interest in this program are invited to attend the seminar held on January 15, 2003 in Memphis, TN at Cordova High School Auditorium from 8:00am-3:00pm. Directions to the school are attached. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. This is an open invitation for all educators, counselors, PTA board members, and Law Enforcement. We believe in the program and we want to give every school district and law enforcement agency in West Tennessee the opportunity to benefit from this study. **This will be a POST certified event and will also satisfy teacher training requirements for educators.**

Reservations are required. Please return the enclosed registration form by January 10, 2003. If you need further information, please call my Law Enforcement Coordinator, Leigh Anne Jordon, at 901-544-4231. I look forward to seeing you on the 15th.